

Description of a new Species of Gull (Gavia roseiventris) from the Falkland Islands. By J. GOULD, Esq.

I describe this Gull as new, with a degree of hesitation, since it is hardly to be supposed that a bird of this magnitude, and doubtless, like the other members of the group, of very wandering habits, should not have been noticed and described. Still I can find no description which answers to this somewhat anomalous bird; neither does it accord with any of the numerous species contained in our national Museum. I make use of the word anomalous, because, although I cannot separate it from the little group of Gulls, of which our well-known species *Gavia ridibunda* forms a part, it differs from them in several particulars. In the first place, the specimen, which is certainly fully adult, has a nearly white head, the hinder part only being clouded with dusky, inducing the belief that a black hood was its characteristic at another season; yet, strange to say, the bill, legs, and feet are of the most intense coral-red; moreover these organs are very thick and fleshy, much more so than is ever seen in *G. ridibunda* and its allies; the gape, also, is wider than in the other members of the group, while the bill and tarsi are shorter; the hind toes of this, the only specimen I have seen, are well developed, but are entirely *destitute of nails* (probably from accident or injury); and lastly, the neck and breast are suffused with a beautiful pinkish rose-colour—a colour, which in spite of every care, disappears after a time, and which has sensibly diminished during the two months it has been under my notice; the three first primaries have their terminal portions entirely white, and the tail also is white, in which respects it agrees with the Black-headed Gulls in the British Museum, said to be from the Falkland Islands and the Straits of Magellan.

The following is an accurate description of this Gull:—

Tail, head, neck, and all the under surface white, suffused on the breast and abdomen with rich pinkish rose-colour; back of the head clouded with dusky; back and wings silvery-grey; primaries white, the first narrowly edged on the base of the external web, and broadly marked on the base of the internal web, with black, the remainder broadly margined on the internal web with black nearly to the tip; tail white; bill, legs, and feet coral-red.

Total length 13 inches, bill $1\frac{3}{4}$, wing $11\frac{1}{4}$, tail $3\frac{1}{2}$, tarsi $1\frac{5}{8}$.

Ground-colour of the egg light olive, elegantly variegated with irregularly-shaped markings of umber-brown, disposed in a zone near the larger end, and continued more sparingly over the whole surface, some of them appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell: these markings assume various V-shaped, arrow-headed, tail-shaped, and other fantastic forms. A lengthened and very pretty egg. Length 2 inches; breadth $1\frac{3}{8}$.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* Feb 8, 1859.